

# Seattle Women's Commission 2013 Work Plan

## Economic Opportunities

| <u>Work Plan Item</u>  | <u>Work First Quarter</u>  |
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| Expand Paid Sick and Safe Time outreach and education to workers and businesses in the Seattle area, including Seattle employees who reside in outside Seattle, and promote healthy schools. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued to monitor sick leave outreach to workers and businesses</li> <li>Commissioners spoke to the media concerning paid sick/safe time and legislation introduced in the State Senate.</li> <li>SWC sent a letter to the Senate Committee concerning the impact of paid sick/safe time on women</li> </ul>   |
| Promote economic equity for women in Seattle.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hosted a presentation on the issues facing immigrant and refugee women from Ada Williams Prince, Policy &amp; Advocacy Director for OneAmerica .</li> <li>Hosted a presentation on Title IX and its enforcement on the UW campus Sara Ainsworth, Adjunct Professor, University of WA School of Law</li> <li>A delegation of SWC commissioners attended Women's Lobby Day in Olympia on 3/26, where they met with a visiting Russian delegation of English foreign language teachers, touring the U.S. to learn about equal opportunity, civic involvement, ethnic and religious diversity and the U.S. educational system.</li> <li>Commissioners met with a visiting group of women from south and central Asia to discuss gender equity and political and economic leadership by women.</li> <li>Research issues surrounding women veterans on the police force.</li> </ul> |
| Reduce barriers to the City's child care assistance program.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research options for childcare for women pursuing higher education.</li> </ul>  |

## Health Disparities

| <u>Work Plan Item</u>   | <u>Work First Quarter</u>  |
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| Research and make policy recommendation on the impact of food deserts on women and children in Seattle, with a specific focus on access to WIC providers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research obtaining and housing an intern to produce a report on the impact of food deserts in Seattle</li> <li>Outreach to Women's Studies, Public Administration and Public Policy programs at local Universities</li> </ul> |

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| Monitor State legislation and city issues important to women's health including breastfeeding disparity, support for the Reproductive Parity Act and additional funding to Medicaid and Medicare.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioners presented to the Immigrant and Refugee Commission at their retreat on the successful SWC Breastfeeding Initiative, and discussed strategies for working with elected officials and the media.</li> <li>SWC wrote a letter of support for the Affordable Healthcare Act provisions and regulations set by The Department of Health and Human Services that ensure that women who do not lose their rights to affordable reproductive care.</li> </ul>  |
| Continue efforts to reduce infant mortality in communities of color by addressing the social determinates of health in collaboration with community coalitions. Investigate the feasibility of the community officer crib distribution program within the SPD. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioners have been working with King County Jail Health on ensuring policies and procedures are in place for women brought into the jail who are breastfeeding. A complaint was brought to the Commission regarding a woman not given access to a breast pump for 24 hours. Jail Health has now moved manual breast pumps to an accessible area and will also provide education as needed to breastfeeding women. The information and policies were sent to all jail health staff. The commission will continue to work with Jail Health on ensuring access for breastfeeding women.</li> <li>Commissioners met with the Director of the crib distribution program, Deb Robinson, and are working collaboratively with her to assess resources for this pilot program.</li> <li>SWC wrote a letter of support for the Seattle and King County Public Health Department's application to CityMatCH for the Institute for Equity in Birth Outcomes.</li> </ul> |

### **Housing and Homelessness**

| <u>Work Plan Item</u>   | <u>Work First Quarter</u>  |
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| Continue to advocate eliminating barriers to housing for survivors of domestic violence, with an emphasis on the tenant screening process.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to advocate eliminating barriers to housing for survivors of domestic violence, with an emphasis on the tenant screening process.</li> <li>Provided support and advocacy with Washington Low Income Housing Alliance for the House and Senate legislation on tenant screening practices in Olympia. So far both the House and Senate companion bills have each passed one house.</li> <li>Discussed local options if legislation does not pass with stakeholders, and the potential avenues to discuss stakeholder support.</li> <li>Continued research into the tenant screen industry and review of the Yale Law Journal article on the industry.</li> </ul> |
| Continue to advocate for homeless women and children, with a specific focus on children the deportation system have left without a parent's in the united states, LGBT homeless youth, and seniors. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to advocate for homeless women and children, with a specific focus on children the deportation system has left without a parent in the United States, LGBT, homeless youth, and seniors.</li> <li>Commissioners attended events for service providers contracting with the City for homeless services for women and children, with a specific focus on LGBT and undocumented children.</li> <li>Commissioners researched the impact of the deportation system on children and asked questions of Ada Williams Prince, Policy &amp; Advocacy Director for OneAmerica, regarding the number of children in our community left homeless by</li> </ul>             |

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|   | deportation.   |
| Participate with DPD as it develops further its interior residential rental inspection program and advocate for cultural and gender sensitivity during inspections. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioners began researching the LA County interior inspection program and how it addresses cultural and gender sensitivity training.</li> <li>Participate with Department of Planning and Development as it develops its interior residential rental inspection program and advocate for cultural and gender sensitivity during inspections.</li> <li>Discussed status of the interior residential rental inspection program and cultural and gender sensitivity during inspections with Tenant's Union, who is ready and willing to partner with the SWC to approach DPD this summer.</li> </ul> |

### **Violence Prevention:**

| <u>Work Plan Item</u>   | <u>Work First Quarter</u>  |
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| Monitor Police accountability measures and advocate for women throughout all city measures to improve police officer accountability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued monitoring the development of the police accountability board and the 20/20 plan</li> <li>SWC sent a letter to King County Sheriff John Urquhart to follow up on the 1/17/13 Seattle Times article, "3 Sheriff's Detectives Sue County Claiming Sexual Harassment." The article reported on a culture of sexual harassment and disparagement in the County's Special Assault Unit. SWC urged Sheriff Urquhart to conduct a full investigation, mandate training as needed, and meet with tribal leaders to assure them that his office is dedicated to investigating sexual assault on reservations.</li> </ul> |
| Promote awareness and educate women on the process for obtaining stay away order from the courts.                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Researched issues related to access and education including cultural and language barriers and issues specific to veterans</li> <li>Hosted a presentation from David Martin, Senior Deputy Prosecutor, Chair Domestic Violence Unit on upcoming state legislation related to violence against women.</li> <li>SWC wrote State Senator Mike Carrell and Representative Jamie Pedersen in support of the combined House-Senate bill, "Modifying Stalking and Harassment Protection Order Provisions" and in support of removing the existing marital rape exemption in Washington state</li> </ul>                          |
| Monitor City of Seattle's actions with regard to violence against women and advocate against violence toward young women and girls. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supported the UW Human Trafficking Conference</li> <li>Commissioners met with the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence on the needs of those affected by domestic violence. SWC will be participating in a domestic violence needs assessment coordinated by the Coalition</li> </ul>  |

### Overarching Efforts

*The Seattle Women's Commission will work closely with the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and with organizations in the returning veterans communities to be make certain that immigrants, refugees, and returning female veterans are being served appropriately by the Commission's work on each work plan item*